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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR:	N. Brandon et al.)	EXAMINER:	Hirl, J.P.
)		
SERIAL NO.:	09/881,820)	ART UNIT:	2121
)		
FILING DATE:	June 15, 2001)	DATE:	March 5, 2004
)		
FOR:	Method for Designing)		
	a Knowledge Portal)		

DECLARATION UNDER RULE 131

Mail Stop _____
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

I, Michael A Limanni, do hereby declare as follows:

1. I am a co-inventor of the invention entitled "Method for Designing a Knowledge Portal" described and claimed in the above-identified application.
2. This is a declaration under the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.131 for the purpose of swearing back of a reference which was cited in the subject application. This declaration establishes facts showing conception of this invention in this country prior to the April 26, 2001 filing date of Shetty U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2003/0084011 A1 cited against this application, and due diligence from a time prior to that date until the application was filed.

3. The claimed invention in the above-identified application was conceived and in the U.S. prior to April 26, 2001.

4. The foregoing is evidenced by the appended copy of a portion of an invention disclosure form filled out by me on behalf of all of the co-inventors describing the invention disclosed in the subject patent application.

5. The attached invention disclosure teaches a method for designing a knowledge portal for retrieving, organizing and delivering knowledge to a user belonging to an organization. The method identifies a community of users belonging to the organization characterized by a common interest with respect to the knowledge, and identifies business processes executed by the users in the community in accordance with strategies of the organization. The method then includes analyzing the business processes to identify specific activities performed in executing said processes and patterns for performing the respective activities; and constructing the knowledge portal in accordance with the patterns.

6. The attached invention disclosure is dated prior to April 26, 2001, the filing date of the Shetty patent publication, but actual dates and the material not pertinent thereto have been redacted in view of their confidential nature.

7. The attached invention disclosure was submitted to the attorneys for the assignee, International Business machines Corporation, prior to April 26, 2001, and the application was prepared with due diligence from prior to that date until it was actually filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 15, 2001.


The undersigned petitioner declares further that all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under §1001 of the Title XVIII of the United States Code and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

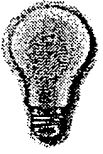

Name: Michael A Limanni

1-23-04
Date

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop _____, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Barbara Browne Date: 3/5/04 Signature: 
ibmf100339000r131decl.doc



Disclosure FIS8-2000-0627

Prepared for and/or by an IBM Attorney - IBM Confidential

Created By: Michael A Limanni

Created On: [REDACTED]

Last Modified By: Hilda Heinlein

Last Modified On: [REDACTED]

Required fields are marked with the asterisk (*) and must be filled in to complete the form .

*Title of disclosure (in English)

IBM Global Services Portal Enablement Business Method

Summary

Status	[REDACTED]
Processing Location	[REDACTED]
Functional Area	[REDACTED]
Attorney/Patent Professional	[REDACTED]
IDT Team	[REDACTED]
Submitted Date	[REDACTED]
Owning Division	[REDACTED]
Incentive Program	[REDACTED]
Lab	[REDACTED]
Technology Code	[REDACTED]
PVT Score	[REDACTED]

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Select Functional Area

IDT Team: [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]	Attorney/Patent Professional: [Redacted]
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Response Due to IP&L : [Redacted]

***Main Idea**

1. Describe your invention, stating the problem solved (if appropriate), and indicating the advantages of using the invention.

In our view, a "knowledge portal" is a web-based tool which provides information delivery capability to individual knowledge workers who need access to a broad spectrum of knowledge. It retrieves and indexes data or content from multiple knowledge sources and delivers that content to the user organized in a way that is highly relevant and intuitive.

A key challenge an organization faces in implementing a knowledge portal is balancing the need to deliver immediate relevancy to each user with the high cost of personalization at the individual user level.

The major decisions involved with designing a knowledge portal include:

- who the portal is really for
- what knowledge it should access
- where that knowledge resides or gets created
- how the knowledge should be structured and customized both for individuals and for groups
- how the portal can provide and link collaborative environments
- what business applications should be accessed or integrated

Our invention is a unique method for making these design decisions by:

A. Taking advantage of the natural clustering of an organization's knowledge workers into communities whose members share:

- a common base of knowledge, tools, and processes,
- ways of conceptualizing or organizing that knowledge,
- a set of peers with whom they typically network or collaborate.

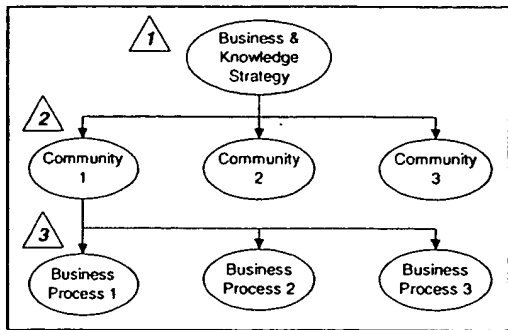
These shared characteristics correspond closely to the key decisions required to design the knowledge portal. Using a community focus in the portal design effort results in an appropriate compromise between the comparatively low relevancy to individual users inherent in an organization-wide "one size fits all" design and the high cost of requiring each individual to invest the resources needed to customize his or her own portal.

B. Maintaining direct alignment among the organization's business strategies, its communities, its processes, and the content and organization of the portal.

2. How does the invention solve the problem or achieve an advantage,(a description of "the invention", including figures inline as appropriate)?

The diagram below describes how our method guides the design process by exploiting the natural clustering of an organization's knowledge workers into communities while also maintaining the alignment

among the organization's business strategies, its communities, its processes, and the content and organization of the portal.

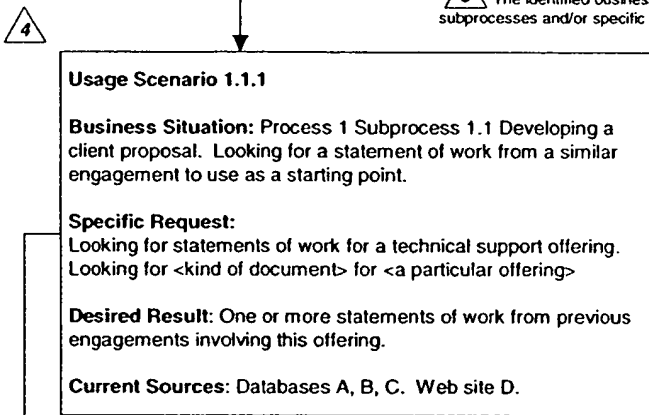


1 The process begins with a review of the sponsoring organization's business strategy, knowledge strategy, and stated priorities.

2 The specific communities* and business processes to be supported by the portal are identified, based on the organization's business and knowledge strategies and priorities. These are interrelated decisions. In some cases, the organization's strategies and priorities might highlight the need for a portal to support a particular business process, which in turn will drive identification of the specific community or communities most-directly involved in executing that business process. In other cases, the organization's strategies and priorities might highlight the need for a portal to support a particular community of practice, in which case the selection of the local community will drive identification of the particular business process or processes that members of the community execute.

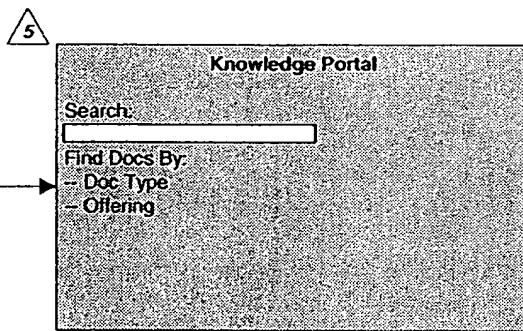
- * Community, as used here, means a group of users (employees or others) who share:
- A common base of knowledge, tools, and processes
 - A common way of conceptualizing or organizing that knowledge
 - A set of peers with whom they typically network or collaborate

3 The identified business process (or processes) is decomposed into subprocesses and/or specific activities performed in order to execute the process.



4 Usage scenarios are then developed to understand how the portal might be used to support each specific activity. Each usage scenario identifies:

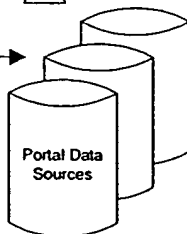
- A specific business activity or situation
- The specific request a user might make of the portal in support of this particular business activity or situation, stated in the most-likely or most-intuitive way he or she would make that request.
- The result the user expects from the portal in response to the request
- Known sources of information that might be helpful in responding to the request



5 The collection of usage scenarios is examined for recurring patterns. Understanding the form of the user's specific requests helps identify the most-intuitive way to organize the knowledge and tools within the portal.

For example, if a recurring pattern across the collection of usage scenarios is a user request stated in the form of, "I am looking for <kind of document> for <a particular offering>", this might suggest that organizing content by kind of document, by offering, or a combination of both might be appropriate.

6 Similarly, understanding the desired results from each scenario, along with where people go to find that information today, helps identify the documents, databases, web sites, or tools to be made available via the portal.



Note: At each stage in the process, we ensure the decisions made remain in alignment with the original driving strategies and organizational priorities.